Pre-Deployment Checklist

☐ **Identify emergency contact person, confirm their willingness and ability to support.**

☐ **Register ACR rescue beacon with NOAA.gov and relevant destination country authorities.**
   - https://www.acrartex.com/support/registrations/

☐ **Identify target country emergency contacts, US embassy information, etc.**
   - https://www.usembassy.gov/

☐ **Register with US State Dept. Travel service.**
   - https://step.state.gov/

☐ **Ensure needed immunizations are up to date**
   - https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel

☐ **Determine travel insurance needs (kidnap, death/disability, extract, etc.)**
   - https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/go/health/insurance-providers.html
   - https://www.travelinsurancecenter.com/eng/tools/products.cfm?cat=am
   - https://www.bellwoodprestbury.com/individuals/cover-for-individuals/
   - http://www.worldescapade.com/en/our-insurance/reporters-without-borders-insurance

☐ **Get prescriptions for any recommended emergency medicines**
   - Malarone (anti-malaria)
   - EpiPen (high risk allergies)
   - Ciprofloxacin (stomach anti-biotic)

☐ **Ensure passport and visa requirements are met**
   - https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country.html

☐ **Get foreign driving permit (even if not planning on driving)**
   - http://www.aaa.com/vacation/idpf.html

☐ **Ensure currency, credit cards, and ATM needs are covered**
   - due to counterfeiting abroad, many in-country currency exchanges will only accept brand new US $100 bills or new $20 bills. Best to bring a mix.
   - some countries ATM networks will not connect with US banks (or ATMs don't exist)
   - some foreign credit card machines require chip AND PIN not often provided by US cards
   - *ideally bring some foreign currency with you when departing US*

☐ **Establish communications plan**
  - determine if phone and carrier work in destination country, may need to "unlock" by calling carrier before
  - bring cheap international GSM phone, acquire SIM in-country
  - bring sat phone or communications device https://explore.garmin.com/en-US/inreach/
  - establish a minimum check-in schedule with your emergency contact (daily, when moving locations, etc.). Make clear escalation steps and timeframes for loss of contact.

☐ **Print key phrases, learn basics of language and culture**
  - https://www.dliflc.edu/resources/products/
  - http://fieldsupport.dliflc.edu/productList.aspx?v=co
  - https://wikitravel.org/en/List_of_phrasebooks

☐ **Print physical copies of relevant maps**
  - hotel, embassy, operating area, intended destinations, etc.
  - https://www.openstreetmap.org/#map=3/10.75/-8.70

☐ **If traveling with smartphone, download offline maps and dictionaries**
  - highly recommended: https://maps.me/download/
  - example: https://play.google.com/store/search?q=offline%20arabic%20english%20dictionary&c=apps&hl=en

☐ **Make three photo copies of documents and information, provide to emergency contact person, carry with you, leave at home/office in safe place:**
  - passport
  - ID
  - prescriptions
  - immunizations
  - insurance
  - proof-of-life questions and answers
  - destination country and US embassy contact information
  - hotel and/or in-country points of contact
  - instructions for contacting
  - travel dates and expected contact schedule
  - maps

☐ **If carrying smartphone, scan copies of the documents above and store on phone, ideally encrypted**